

means for communicatively coupling to at least one other backup cell, whereby the first backup cell is capable of being controlled by a management component in the other backup cell.

21. The backup and retrieval system of claim 20, comprising means for controlling the backup device in a first backup cell from the management component in another of the plurality of backup cells.

22. The backup and retrieval system of claim 20, comprising means for controlling the backup device in a first backup cell from the management component in another of the plurality of backup cells via the management component in the first backup cell.

23. A backup and retrieval system for a network computing system, the network computing system comprising a plurality of network devices storing data, the backup and retrieval system comprising one or more backup cells comprising:

a backup device executing a backup of the data stored on at least one of the plurality of network devices;

a media component, configured to reside on and execute on any network device including a first network device, communicatively coupled to at least one backup device for controlling the backup of the data to the backup device;

a client component, configured to reside on and execute on any network device including a second network device and communicatively coupled to at least one media component, directing the media component to backup the data according to operational parameters established by the client component; and

a management component, configured to reside on and execute on any network device including a third network device and communicatively coupled to at least one client component, directing the client component to backup the data according to backup parameters of the backup cell established by the management component.

24. The backup and retrieval system of claim 20, comprising means for communicatively coupling each of the plurality of backup cells to at least one other of the plurality of backup cells, and each of the plurality of backup cells adaptable to be controlled by a management component in another of the plurality of backup cells.

25. The backup and retrieval system of claim 20, comprising means for the management component in another of the plurality of backup cells to control the client component.

26. The backup and retrieval system of claim 20, comprising means for the management component in another of the plurality of backup cells to control the client component via the management component in the same backup cell as the client component.

✓ 27. A backup and retrieval system for a network computing system, the network computing system comprising a plurality of network devices storing data, the backup and retrieval system comprising:

a plurality of backup cells comprising:

a backup device executing a backup of the data stored on at least one of the plurality of network devices; and

a management component, residing on and configured to run on any network device and communicatively coupled to at least one backup device, for controlling the backup of the data to the backup device.